



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 25, 2007

For More Information, Contact:
Loreeta Canton
Stacy Eberl
Office of Public Information
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.2372
E-mail: lcanton@nd.gov
sleberl@nd.gov

MEDIA ADVISORY

**North Dakota Department of Health schedules media conference call
to discuss the state's first West Nile virus-related death in 2007**

BISMARCK, N.D. – To answer media questions about the state's first West Nile virus-related death in 2007, the North Dakota Department of Health will hold a telephone media availability Wednesday, July 25, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. The following department officials will participate in the 2:30 p.m. conference call:

- Dr. Craig Lambrecht, chief field medical officer
- Kirby Kruger, state epidemiologist
- Michelle Feist, West Nile Virus Surveillance coordinator
- Tracy Miller, West Nile Virus Program manager

To connect to the conference call, the media is asked to dial 866.637.9769. If you have trouble connecting, call 701.328.2378.

Members of the media who wish to attend in person can meet at 2:30 p.m. in Audio Visual Room 212 on the second floor of the Judicial Wing at the State Capitol Building, Bismarck N.D.

For more information about the conference call, contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, public information officers, at 701.328.2372.

-- more --

The following information will be released about West Nile virus cases.

Policy for Release of Information Concerning West Nile Virus Cases

The North Dakota Department of Health strives to protect the identity and the privacy of people who are infected with diseases, including West Nile virus, while at the same time protecting the public's health. The following list identifies the information the Department of Health will release to the media and/or public concerning West Nile virus cases.

West Nile Virus Cases

- Number of cases per county
- Number of males and females statewide
- Number hospitalized statewide
- Number of cases by age group statewide
 - Younger than 10
 - Ages 10 to 19
 - Ages 20 to 29
 - Ages 30 to 39
 - Ages 40 to 49
 - Ages 50 to 59
 - Age 60 and older

West Nile Virus Deaths

- Region of the state in which the person resided
- Age group of the person
- The person's gender
- If the person had any underlying medical conditions

Information about a West Nile virus death will be released only after the department has consulted with the patient's health-care provider and after the provider has communicated with the patient's family. The local public health unit in which the person resided also will be notified prior to release of information.

If you have any questions, please contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, North Dakota Department of Health Office of Public Information, at 701.328.2372.

Communication policy developed 2002; updated 2006.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.